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Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

# RFK Jr. denies making antisemitic comments

By LISA MASCARO and ALI SWENSON  
Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert F. Kennedy Jr. worked to defend himself Thursday against accusations that he traffics in racist and hateful online conspiracy theories, testifying at a House hearing on government censorship despite requests from outside groups to disinvite the Democratic presidential candidate after his recent antisemitic remarks. The Republican-led Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government is amplifying GOP claims that conservatives and others are being unfairly targeted by technology companies that routinely work with the government to try to stem the spread of disinformation online. Democrats argued that free speech comes with responsibilities not to spread misinformation, particularly when it fans violence. In opening remarks, Kennedy invoked his famous family's legacy in decrying the complaints of racism and antisemitism against him.

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House Judiciary Committee Chair Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, left, and Del. Stacey Plaskett, D-V.I., right, the ranking member, spar with each other and witnesses as the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government holds a hearing, Thursday, July 20, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press



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# RFK Jr. denies making antisemitic comments

Continued from Front

"This is an attempt to censor a censorship hearing," said Kennedy, the son of Robert F. Kennedy and the nephew of President John F. Kennedy.

Growing animated at times, Kennedy defended his statements, which have delved into race, vaccine safety and other issues, as neither "racist or antisemitic." He said his family has long believed in the First Amendment right to free speech.

"The First Amendment was not written for easy speech," Kennedy said. "It was written for the speech that nobody likes you for." Republicans are eager to elevate Kennedy after he announced in April he was mounting a long-shot Democratic primary challenge to President Joe Biden. Kennedy's presidential campaign chairman, Dennis Kucinich, the former congressman and past presidential contender, sat in the front row behind him during the more-than-three-hours hearing.

The Big Tech companies have adamantly denied the GOP assertions and say they enforce their rules impartially for everyone regardless of ideology or political affiliation. And researchers have not found widespread evidence that social media companies are biased against conservative news, posts or materials.

The top Democrat on the House panel, Del. Stacey Plaskett of the Virgin Islands, said the Republican majority was giving a platform to Kennedy and others to promote conspiracy theories and a rallying cry for "bigotry and hate."

"This is not the kind of free speech I know," Plaskett said.

Plaskett warned against misinformation from Russia and other U.S. adversaries who have interfered in American elections and are expected to meddle again in the 2024 election. Often emotional and heated, Thursday's hearing came as subcommittee



**Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., recites the pledge of allegiance before testifying at a House Judiciary Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 20, 2023.**

Associated Press

tee chairman Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, portrayed what he claimed were examples of censorship, including a White House request to Twitter to remove a race-based post from Kennedy about COVID-19 vaccines. "It's why Mr. Kennedy is running for president — it's to stop, to help us expose and stop what's going on," Jordan said.

A watchdog group asked Jordan to drop the invitation to Kennedy after he suggested COVID-19 could have been "ethnically targeted" to spare Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese people. In those filmed remarks first published by The New York Post, Kennedy said "there is an argument" that COVID-19 "is ethnically targeted" and that it "attacks certain races disproportionately."

After the video was made public, Kennedy posted on Twitter that his words were twisted and denied ever suggesting that COVID-19 was deliberately engineered to spare Jewish people. He called for the Post's article to be retracted.

A clip from the video was

aired at the hearing. Kennedy has a history of comparing vaccines — widely credited with saving millions of lives — with the genocide of the Holocaust during Nazi Germany, comments for which he has sometimes apologized. In heated exchanges, Democrats implored Kennedy and Republicans to consider the fallout from their words and actions — and noted that one of the posts Republicans had singled out at the hearing was not removed by any censors.

"Hate speech has consequences," said Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., who made reference to the mass shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue, among others. He called the hearing Orwellian.

Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-Texas, said she received a death threat after the last hearing of the Weaponization panel.

When Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., read aloud Kennedy's postings and questioned his intent, Kennedy interjected that she was "slandering me" and claimed what the con-

gresswoman was saying was a lie.

An organization that Kennedy founded, Children's Health Defense, currently has a lawsuit pending against a number of news organizations, among them The Associated Press, accusing them of violating antitrust laws by taking action to identify misinformation, including about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

Ahead of the hearing, Jordan said that while he disagreed with Kennedy's remarks, he was not about to drop him from the panel. Speaker Kevin McCarthy took a similar view, saying he did not want to censor Kennedy.

The panel wants to probe the way the federal government works with technology companies to flag postings that contain false information or downright lies. Hanging over the debate is part of federal communications law, Section 230, which shields technology companies like Twitter and Facebook from liability over what's said on their platforms.

Lawmakers on the panel

were also hearing testimony from Emma-Jo Morris, journalist at Breitbart News, who has reported extensively on Biden's son, Hunter Biden; and D. John Sauer, a former Solicitor General in Missouri who is now a special Assistant Attorney General at the Louisiana Department of Justice involved in the lawsuit against the Biden administration.

Morris tweeted part of her opening remarks in which she described an "elaborate censorship conspiracy" that she claimed sought to halt her reporting of Hunter Biden.

A witness called by Democrats, Maya Wiley, the president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, implored the lawmakers to consider the platforms where Americans share views — but also "how deeply vital that they be based in fact, not fiction."

The U.S. has been hesitant to regulate the social media giants, even as outside groups warn of the rise of hate speech and misinformation that can be erosive to civil society. □



## New rules for oil and gas leasing raise rates to drill on public lands

By MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Biden administration is proposing new rules for the nation's oil and gas leasing program that would raise costs for energy companies to drill on public lands and strengthen requirements for cleaning up old wells where drilling is completed or abandoned.

A rule proposed Thursday by the Interior Department codifies provisions in the sweeping climate law approved last year, as well as the 2021 infrastructure law and recommendations from an Interior report on oil and gas leasing issued in November 2021.

The rule does not go so far as to prohibit new oil and gas leasing on public lands, as many environmental groups have urged and as President Joe Biden promised during the 2020 campaign. But officials said the proposal would lead to a more responsible leasing process that provides a better return to U.S. taxpayers.

The new rule "provides a fair return to taxpayers, adequately accounts for environmental harms and discourages speculation by oil



Pump jacks work in a field near Lovington, N.M., April 24, 2015.

and gas companies," said Laura Daniel-Davis, principal deputy assistant interior secretary for land and minerals management. Interior "is committed to creating a more transparent, inclusive and just approach to leasing and permitting that serves the public interest while protecting natural and cultural resources on our public lands," she added. The climate law passed

by Congress, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, set royalty rates for drilling on public lands at 16.67%, an increase over the 12.5% rate that oil and gas companies paid for drilling rights for a century.

The previous rate was significantly lower than many states and private landowners charge for drilling leases on state or private lands.

The new rate is expected to remain in place until August 2032, after which it can be increased.

The rule also would increase the minimum leasing bond paid by energy companies to \$150,000, up from the previous \$10,000 established in 1960. The higher bonding requirement is intended to ensure that companies meet their obligations to clean up drill-

ing sites after they are done or cap wells that are abandoned.

The previous level was far too low to force companies to act and did not cover potential costs to reclaim a well, officials said. As a result, taxpayers frequently end up covering cleanup costs for abandoned or depleted wells if an operator refuses to do so or declares bankruptcy. Hundreds of thousands of "orphaned" oil and gas wells and abandoned coal and hardrock mines pose serious safety hazards, while causing ongoing environmental damage.

The Interior Department has made available more than \$1 billion in the past two years from the infrastructure law to clean up orphaned oil and gas wells on public lands. The new rule aims to prevent that burden from falling on taxpayers in the future.

Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning, whose agency issued the new rule, said the proposal "aims to ensure fairness to the taxpayer and balanced, responsible development as we continue to transition to a clean energy economy." □

Associated Press

## New U.S. sanctions are aimed at choking off Russia's supplies

FATIMA HUSSEIN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on roughly 120 firms and people from Russia to the United Arab Emirates to Kyrgyzstan in an effort to choke off Moscow's access to products, money and financial channels that support its invasion of Ukraine. The sanctions imposed by the Treasury and State departments target dozens of Russian mining, technology and munitions firms and commercial banks. In addition, a group of Kyrgyzstan-based electronics firms and its leadership were targeted as exporters of components and other technol-

ogy to Russia.

A UAE-based engineering company that sent dozens of shipments of electronics to Russia was also sanctioned.

The latest sanctions build on those imposed on Russia when the U.S. and other Group of Seven nations rolled out a wave of global actions during a Japan summit in May.

"Since Russia launched its full scale invasion of Ukraine, the United States, working with our allies and partners, has taken unprecedented steps to impose costs on Russia and promote accountability for the individuals and entities who support its illegal war," U.S. Secretary of State Antony

Blinken said in a statement. "We will continue to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes," he said.

After the invasion's one-year anniversary in February, U.S. officials said Russia's metals and mining sector would be a focus of future sanctions actions, as well as reducing Russia's energy revenues through the imposition of a price cap on Russian oil.

Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo said Thursday's actions represent "another step in our efforts to constrain Russia's military capabilities, its access to battlefield supplies, and its economic bottom line."

"As long as Russia contin-

ues to wage its unprovoked and brutal war against Ukraine, we will impose sanctions to deprive Russia of the technology it needs

and disrupt the Russian arms industry's ability to re-supply," Adeyemo said in a statement. □



Emergency service personnel work at the site of a destroyed building after a Russian attack in Odesa, Ukraine, Thursday, July 20, 2023.

Associated Press



## Jury awards Florida girl burned by McNugget \$800,000 in damages

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)** — A South Florida jury awarded \$800,000 in damages to a little girl who received second-degree burns when a hot Chicken McNugget fell on her leg as her mother pulled away from the drive-thru of a McDonald's restaurant.

Lawyers for the family of Olivia Caraballo, who was 4 when she was burned in 2019, were seeking \$15 million in damages. Jurors reached their verdict after deliberating for less than two hours on Wednesday, the South Florida SunSentinel reported.

The jury's verdict form allotted \$400,000 in damages for the past four years, and another \$400,000 for the future from the McDonald's USA and its franchise operator, Upchurch Foods. A separate jury decided in May that the company and franchise owner were liable for the injury, which occurred outside a McDonald's in Tamarac, near Fort Lauderdale. "I'm actu-



**Philana Holmes, right, hugs her attorney, Keyla Smith, after a jury awarded her \$800,000 on behalf of her daughter Olivia Caraballo, now 8, at the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Wednesday, July 19, 2023.**

ally just happy that they listened to Olivia's voice and the jury was able to decide a fair judgment," Olivia's mother, Philana Holmes, told reporters outside the courtroom. "I'm happy

with that. I honestly had no expectations, so this is more than fair for me." She testified on Tuesday that Olivia, now 8, calls the scar on her inner thigh her "nugget" and is fixated

on having it removed, the newspaper reported. Lawyers for McDonald's argued that the child's discomfort ended when the wound healed, which they said took about three

weeks. They contended that the girl's mother is the one who has the problem with the scar, and told jurors that \$156,000 should cover damages, both past and future.

"She's still going to McDonalds, she still asks to go to McDonald's, she's still driving through the drive-thru with her mom, getting chicken nuggets," defense attorney Jennifer Miller said in her closing argument Wednesday. "She's not bothered by the injury. This is all the mom."

Defense attorneys declined to speak after the verdict. Holmes testified that she had purchased Happy Meals for her son and daughter, who was sitting in the back seat, and was driving away when the nugget fell on the child's leg. She said that the girl screamed in pain, and when she pulled over in a parking lot, she realized the nugget was lodged between Olivia's thigh and the seat belt. □

**Associated Press**

## 1st Black woman named as police chief in Louisville, Kentucky

**By DYLAN LOVAN**  
**Associated Press**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)** — Louisville's new police chief will be the first Black woman to lead the embattled department full-time, bringing fresh hope to a force under a federal consent decree after years of scrutiny following the police shooting of Breonna Taylor in 2020. Louisville interim police chief Jacquelyn Gwinn-Villaroel is formally taking the job of new chief. Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg announced Thursday that she was chosen after a nationwide search. The city has gone through several chiefs and interim leaders since the death of Taylor, a Black woman shot dead in a police raid gone awry. Gwinn-Villaroel came to Louisville from the Atlanta Police Department in 2021 alongside former Chief Erika Shields, who hired her as

a deputy chief. Greenberg, who was elected mayor last year, had said in December that Gwinn-Villaroel would become interim chief after Shields stepped down in January. "This is a challenging job," Greenberg said at a news conference Thursday. "And

over the last few months, it's become very clear that the best person to do this work is already on the job." Gwinn-Villaroel thanked Greenberg for taking a "leap of faith" with her hiring. "I stand here today on the shoulders of so many who paved the way for me

and opened the doors," she said. Greenberg said Gwinn-Villaroel showed leadership during a mass shooting at a downtown bank in April, when one of her officers was shot and wounded. She faces challenges in recruiting new officers to a force that has about 250 job openings, and restoring community trust after the U.S. Justice Department announced in March that it had found Louisville police engaged in a pattern of violating constitutional rights and discrimination. That announcement, made by Attorney General Merrick Garland, followed an investigation prompted by Taylor's shooting. A Justice Department report found the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government and Louisville Metro Police Department "engage in a pattern or prac-

tice of conduct that deprives people of their rights under the Constitution and federal law."

The report said the Louisville police department "discriminates against Black people in its enforcement activities," uses excessive force and conducts searches based on invalid warrants. It also said the department violates the rights of people engaged in protected speech, like the street protests in the city in the summer of 2020 after Taylor's death.

Gwinn-Villaroel had served as the third interim chief since Taylor's death. Former longtime chief Steve Conrad was fired in 2020. Former interim chief Yvette Gentry became the first Black woman to serve in that role when she was hired in 2020, following another interim chief that had succeeded Conrad. □



**Louisville Metro Interim Police Chief Jacquelyn Gwinn-Villaroel speaks to reporters during a news conference in Louisville, Ky., April 10, 2023.**

**Associated Press**



## China's Xi tells Kissinger that China-U.S. ties are at a crossroads

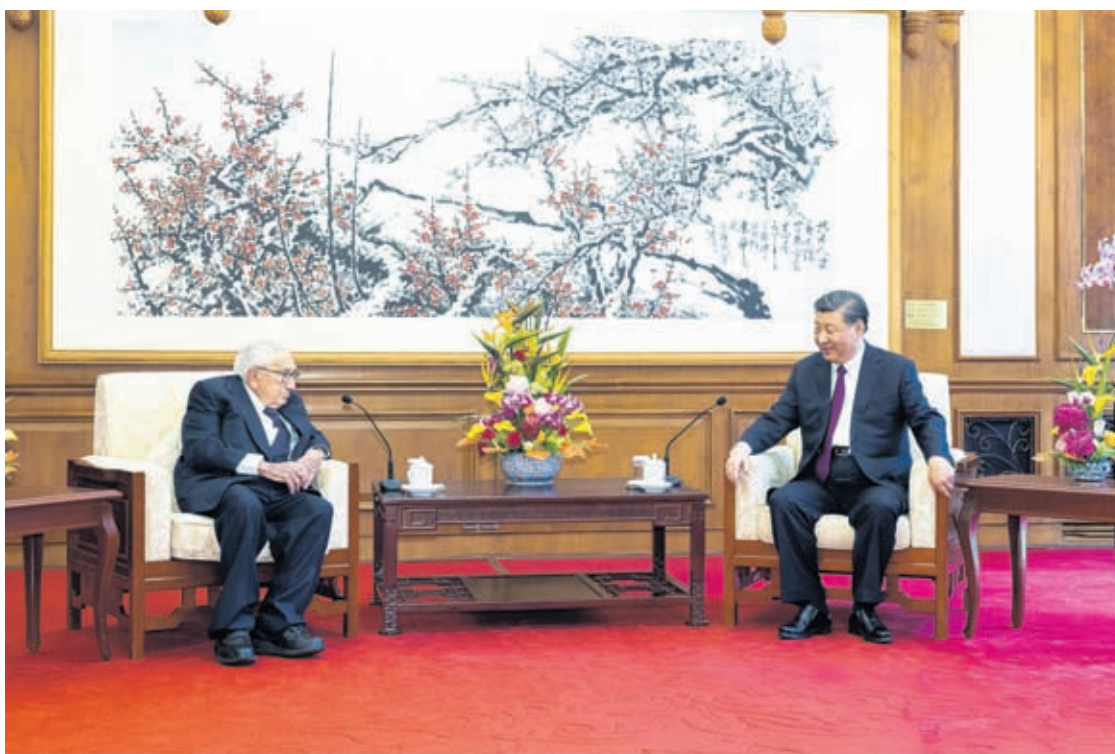
**BEIJING (AP)** — Chinese leader Xi Jinping told former top U.S. diplomat Henry Kissinger on Thursday that relations between the two countries are at a crossroads and both sides need to “make new decisions” that could result in stable ties and “joint success and prosperity.”

The 100-year-old Kissinger is revered in China for having engineered the opening of relations between the ruling Communist Party and Washington under former President Richard Nixon during the Cold War in the early 1970s.

Xi, who is head of state, party general secretary and commander of the world's largest standing military, met with Kissinger in the relatively informal setting of Beijing's park-like Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, with Chinese senior diplomat Wang Yi also in attendance.

“China and the United States are once again at the crossroads of where to go, and the two sides need to make new decisions,” Xi said, according to a statement released by the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

“Looking into the future, China and the United States can achieve joint success and prosperity,” Xi said.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, talks to former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during a meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, Thursday, July 20, 2023.

Kissinger's visit coincided with one by Biden's top climate envoy, John Kerry, the third senior Biden administration official in recent weeks to travel to China for meetings following Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen. The flurry of diplomacy aims to restore dialogue suspended by Beijing, mainly over U.S. support for the self-governing island democracy of Taiwan that China claims

as its own territory.

“The U.S. policy toward China requires the diplomatic wisdom like that of Kissinger and political courage like Nixon's,” Wang said, according to the Foreign Ministry. Kissinger also served as secretary of state under Nixon.

The ministry said the two sides also discussed the war in Ukraine, in which China has largely sided with Moscow, as well as artificial intelligence and oth-

er economic issues. Wang told Kissinger that it was “impossible” to transform, encircle or contain China, which Chinese leaders say the U.S. is trying to do in disputes over trade, technology, Taiwan and China's human rights record.

On Tuesday, Kissinger held talks with Defense Minister Li Shangfu, who is barred from visiting the U.S. over arms sales he oversaw with Russia.

China's Defense Ministry

quoted Li as praising the role Kissinger played in opening up China-U.S. relations in the early 1970s, but said bilateral ties had hit a low point because of “some people on the American side who are not willing to meet China halfway.”

U.S. leaders say they have no such intentions and only seek frank dialogue and fair competition.

China broke off many contacts with the Biden administration last August, including over climate issues, to show its anger with then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan. China claims the island as its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary, threatening to draw the U.S. into a major conflict in a region crucial to the global economy.

Contacts have only slowly been restored and China continues to refuse to restart dialogue between the People's Liberation Army, the party's military branch, and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Even before Pelosi's visit, the U.S. says China declined or failed to respond to over a dozen requests from the Department of Defense for top-level dialogues since 2021. □

Associated Press

## EU climate chief Frans Timmermans says he wants to lead combined center-left bloc in Dutch elections



Frans Timmermans delivers a speech on the outcome of the COP26 in Glasgow, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Eastern France, on Nov. 24 2021.

Associated Press

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands**

**(AP)** — European Union climate chief Frans Timmermans said Thursday he wants to lead a combined campaign by two center-left parties that are joining forces ahead of Dutch parliamentary elections in late November.

Timmermans is a vice president of the EU's executive commission in charge of climate policy. He told Dutch national broadcaster NOS he has put himself forward as a candidate to lead the Labor Party and Green Left into the elections. The

parties agreed Monday to form a united front on the left of the splintered Dutch political landscape.

Timmermans is a member of the Labor Party and a former foreign minister. He says he wants to be the next Dutch prime minister and aims to unite the increasingly polarized nation. “I think it's time for us in the Netherlands to grow closer together again instead of growing apart. The fragmentation in politics must be countered,” he said. “We have enormous challenges the climate crisis, nature is not in good shape. But also a war on the bor-

ders of Europe.”

His candidature quickly gained support.

Attje Kuiken, who leads the Labor Party's bloc in the lower house of parliament, tweeted that it was “Fantastic news!”

Green Left leader Jesse Klaver said in a tweet: “We have a unique chance at these elections to change the course of the Netherlands and usher in a new era.”

Frans Timmermans is absolutely the perfect premier to do it.”

Members of both parties will vote for their choice of leader next month. □



## Russia's Wagner mercenaries launch joint training with Belarusian military

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Mercenaries from Russian military company Wagner launched joint drills with the Belarusian military on Thursday, almost a month after their short-lived rebellion against Moscow. Poland built up troops on its border with Belarus in response to the war games. The maneuvers followed a pledge by Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin to help protect Belarus from a potential incursion and to bolster its military. The Belarusian Defense Ministry said the weeklong drills would take place at a firing range near Brest, a city on the Polish border.

A video released Wednesday appeared to show Prigozhin for the first time since he led last month's mutiny. The recording shows him telling his troops that before deploying to Africa, they would spend some time in Belarus providing training to help "make the Belarusian army the second strongest army in the world." Before the abortive rebellion led by Prigozhin, Wagner mercenaries fought alongside Russian troops in



**In this photo released by Belarus' Defense Ministry on Thursday, July 20, 2023, Belarusian soldiers of the Special Operations Forces (SOF) and mercenary fighters from Wagner private military company pose for a photo while the weeklong maneuvers that will be conducted at a firing range near the border city of Brest, Belarus.**

**Associated Press**

eastern Ukraine. They also were sent to Syria and several African countries since Prigozhin created the private army in 2014. The U.K. government on Thursday imposed asset freezes and travel bans on 13 Wagner mercenaries over alleged attacks on civilians and other human

rights abuses in Africa. Britain previously sanctioned Prigozhin and several other Wagner commanders over the group's role in Russia's invasion of Ukraine. During the revolt that began on June 23 and ended the next day, Prigozhin's mercenaries captured the military headquarters in the

southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don and then drove as close as 200 kilometers (125 miles) to Moscow. The Wagner chief called the mutiny a "march of justice" to oust Russia's top military leaders. The mercenaries faced little resistance, and downed at least six military helicopters

and a command post aircraft, killing at least 10 airmen.

Prigozhin ordered his troops back to their camps after Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko brokered a deal to end the rebellion in exchange for amnesty and permission to relocate to Belarus for Prigozhin and his fighters.

Belaruski Hajun, a Belarusian activist group that monitors troops movements in Belarus, said that nine convoys with more than 2,000 Wagner mercenaries already have rolled into the country.

A Wagner commander said in a statement posted on a messaging app channel linked to the company that about 10,000 Wagner troops are set to deploy to Belarus.

Opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who was forced to leave Belarus after challenging Lukashenko in a 2020 election that the opposition and the West denounced as fraudulent, said that Wagner's deployment would destabilize the country and threaten its neighbors. □



**Israeli military reservists protest in front of the Defense Ministry against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to overhaul the judicial system, in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday, July 19, 2023.**

**Associated Press**

**By ILAN BEN ZION**

**Associated Press**

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — The former head of Israel's internal security agency voiced support on Thursday for military reservists refusing to serve in protest of the government's planned judicial overhaul, drawing fierce criticism from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's

ultranationalist allies days before parliament was set to vote on a key piece of legislation.

A parliamentary committee approved late Wednesday a bill that would curtail the high court's remit in using the "reasonability standard," a legal yardstick allowing judges to overturn decisions made by elected

## Ex-Israeli security chief backs reservists' protest

officials deemed beyond the pale.

The bill, which will come up for a final vote in parliament next week, is one of several keystone pieces of the Netanyahu government's judicial overhaul plan, which seeks to curb what he and his allies consider excessive powers of unelected judges.

Critics of the plan say the legislation will concentrate power in the hands of Netanyahu and his allies and undermine the country's system of checks and balance. Speaking to Army Radio on Thursday, Nadav Argaman, a former head of the Shin Bet internal security agency, leveled withering criticism at Netanyahu, saying he appears commit-

ted to preserving his ruling coalition of ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox parties, not the state itself, and said he was "very worried that we're on the verge of a civil war."

"We need to stop this legislation by any means," he said, voicing support for reservists who "are very concerned and fearful for the security of the state of Israel." For reservists, he said, "until now defending Israel was done on the battlefield. From their perspective, as of today, defending Israel means preserving Israeli democracy."

Argaman was appointed head of the Shin Bet by Netanyahu in 2016 and stepped down in 2021.

Finance Minister Bezalel

Smotrich, a key Netanyahu ally and ultranationalist settler, tweeted that Argaman had "given himself over to idiotic brainwashing."

The judicial overhaul plan, which was announced shortly after Netanyahu took office as prime minister following November's parliamentary elections Israel's fifth in under four years has divided an already highly polarized country and sparked months of sustained mass protests.

Netanyahu froze the legislation in March following weeks of demonstrations and mounting labor strikes, but rebooted the judicial overhaul in recent weeks after talks seeking compromise with opposition lawmakers failed. □



## Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

### Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

### Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to



the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

### Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra

eye open.

### Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit

on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

### "Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □





## Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



**Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!**

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for

this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

### America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

"This is work for which you must have a lot of respect. Circus as such implies a lot of risk, we have to give all of ourselves, we need to be in a physical state where you cannot stop training, there needs to be steadfastness; but if you go past the



limit, your body cannot handle it. It seems that during this tour we went over the limit and Diego was injured right when we had to go sign up for the next part of the tour with America's Got Talent. That was frustrating," Yamila explained.


Thanks to their performance in America's Got Talent, they received a lot of offers. However, before that they travelled to Hungary, to the Budapest Circus Festival, and afterwards they decided to return to and remain in Aruba to show their talents up close at home.

### Future projects

Next month in July the group is travelling to Italy to perform at the show "Tu si que vales", and in August they are travelling to France for the program "La France a un Incroyable Talent", completing their travels in November in China, to perform at the Wuqiao International Circus Festival.

Even so, "these are short tours of maximum two weeks, because we are committed to our show in Aruba," Yamila explained.

### Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba. 





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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. These Distinguished Visitors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

### The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)



### The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors Father Jeffrey & Daughter Alyssa Adler from New

Jersey, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing

the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino bestowed the distinguished Visitor certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:  
Aruba's year-round sunny weather.  
Aruba's nice sandy beaches.

"Aruba's variety of restaurants to choose from – they are all great!"  
Aruba's hospitable people.

The safety of the island  
On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Father Jeffrey & Daughter Alyssa for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

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website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Kelly Herzfeld & Chris Hernandez from Staten Island, New York.

They wrote to us saying; "Aruba To Me...is a place that we will hold close to our hearts for the rest of our lives. Our trip this year is so special because we are now ENGAGED!! This will definitely not be our last trip here, everything about this island is so beautiful."

Congratulations on your engagement and thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers. □





## Episode 25

# Rock formations and rock Art Sites



**Each week we share the most interesting and revealing articles regarding Aruba" a destination to be explored " we can find, and so doing uncover amazing and informative stories along the way.**

A couple years ago the last day took place in which it was permitted by law for inhabitants of this Island to express and voice their concerns and documented observations regarding ROP or insular territorial and space management plan for the next 10 years.

Document which had to be delivered at DIP, Aruba's Department of Infrastructure and Planning. Remarkable was the impact the Town Hall Meeting made, organized by the Island's Chamber of Commerce and Industry revealing the lack of information available for the general public in finding help to assess their individual situation problems and worries. A consolidated report request answers to the relative importance of all the issues presented that night concerning Island's territo-

rial providence.

We as Etnia Nativa's voiced and share our knowledge in this matter concerning the status and importance of archeological sites, rock formations, historical as well as Natural Monuments, Island's endemic flora and fauna preservation, waste management and demographic impact on the natural environment in relation with UN SDG indicators.

The following 21 lines were taken from the source: Natural processes in the degradation of openair rock-art sites: an urgency intervention scale to inform conservation – António Pedro Martins Da Mota Batar-da Fernandes

"Our Island has a significant collection of prehistoric rock art sites. While efforts has been made in the past to educating the general public to participate in the conservation of our Natural Heritage. The same cannot be said of rock-art situated in the open-air. Very little has been done to understanding and managing weather effects and ero-

sion phenomena affecting ancient imagery within the relatively protected environments of caves and rock formation shelters.

Despite the fact that the number of known sites has risen in recent decades there are few examples in which the weathering and erosion dynamics are under investigation with a view to developing proposals and to mitigate the impact of natural and cultural processes. Most of the work being done in different parts of the world appears to be ad-hoc, with minimal communication on such matters between teams and with the wider archaeological community. From the many calls for conservation of rock-art coming from very different parts of the world it becomes apparent that there are many threats to the perpetuation of this significant heritage.

Nevertheless, while some authors reference physical weathering as the most pressing risk, others invoke the negative effects of biodegradation, especially when lichen colonization is concerned. In the present a relevant case study regarding vandalism at rock-art sites is recommended. We suggested that the way emphasis is placed on the different forms of risk has much to do with the specific area of expertise of each researcher involved, and, more importantly, with the different environments where rock-art exists. Hence, different settings will determine which weathering patterns are more active and pose more ur-



gent risks to be dealt with by rock-art managers and conservators. The worldwide paucity of experienced rock-art professionals signals that open-air rock-art conservation has not received the attention that other archaeological remains have attracted".

In total ca 301 pictographs (including 3 petroglyphs) have been found on Aruba. Of course one drawing can be as little as a point or line that may be meant as a separate drawing by the ancient artist. Still, by counting every separate representation that everybody would call a drawing one reaches at a total of approximately 270 to 331 separate drawings representations over 17 sites.

Drawings that are at tens of meters distance of each other are considered one site, one cluster. In fact, "sites" within a radius of 500 m are considered one cluster.

Arikok site contains one of the most beautiful rock art collections of Aruba. All pictures in this episode refers to this particular site that is situated whit in the premises of Aruba's National Park of the same name. During the study of the pictographs at Arikok ,4 clusters of drawings turned out to be situated on one straight line, more or less north-south over a distance of 415 m.□

**Source; Island Insight by Etnia Nativa**





## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

**NOORD** - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous "Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the wa-



ter, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the

water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean trans-

formed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐

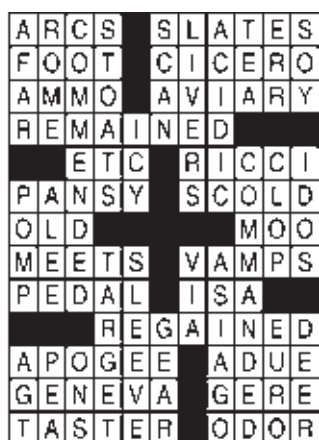




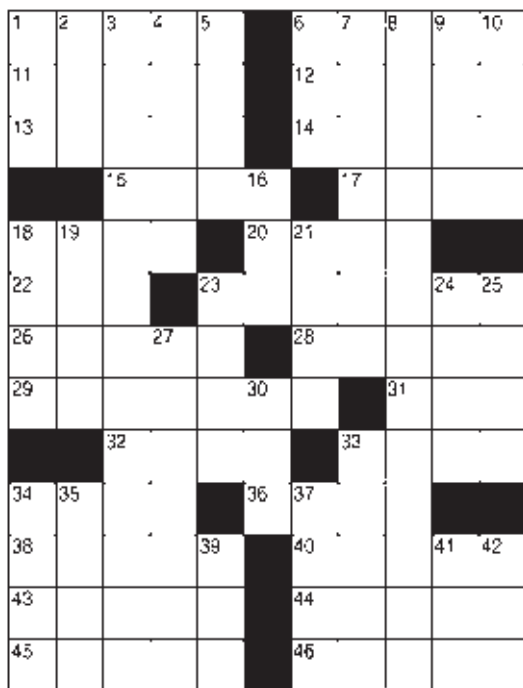
# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Talked madly
  - 6 Spiny plants
  - 11 Spiny plant
  - 12 Detest
  - 13 Musical sounds
  - 14 Small stream
  - 15 Printer's supplies
  - 17 Play parts
  - 18 Sentry's cry
  - 20 Canyon sound
  - 22 Wing
  - 23 Breathes out
  - 26 Yoga position
  - 28 Depiction
  - 29 Start, as an engine
  - 31 Load unit
  - 32 Tablet downloads
  - 33 Final, e.g.
  - 34 Foolish
  - 36 First person
  - 38 Require defrosting
  - 40 Visitor from afar
  - 43 Nemo's creator
  - 44 Do research
- DOWN**
- 1 Squealer
  - 2 Before today
  - 3 Sweet cookies
  - 4 Bit of history
  - 5 Cubicle fixture
  - 6 Fare carrier
  - 7 Isaac's father
  - 8 Kid's quaff
  - 9 Horn sound
  - 10 Bothers
  - 16 Kinsey subject
  - 18 Crumbling car
  - 19 In addition
  - 21 China flaw
  - 23 Tomb-stone
  - 24 They may clash
  - 25 Posted
  - 27 Triton circles it
  - 30 Mex. neighbor
  - 33 Stories
  - 34 High-maintenance sort
  - 35 Good pair
  - 37 Arp's art
  - 39 Sulky state
  - 41 Second person
  - 42 Modern



Yesterday's answer



7-21

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-21

CRYPTOQUOTE

L N J D C U N N S H F H V G N U L F  
O V T N V D N C J G N O F V B  
O P E N D C P Y , Z Y J H N H V G J D C  
O V T N V D N U N N S H F C J G N O F V B  
K V B E Q C N . — H Q V P M B

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: EVERYTHING GOOD. EVERYTHING MAGICAL. HAPPENS BETWEEN THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND AUGUST. — JENNY HAN

## How to pay for an expensive summer move

By JACKIE VELING  
of NerdWallet

Packing your things and moving to a new home is a financial hurdle even in the best of times, but higher demand for moving-related services in the summer can send prices skyrocketing.

If you're wondering how to pay for an upcoming move, there are financing options, including credit cards and unsecured personal loans. You'll want to minimize interest, though, and only borrow what you need. By taking the time to get multiple quotes, moving some stuff yourself or getting rid of belongings, you can lower the amount you need to borrow or avoid financing altogether.

### WHAT TO EXPECT FOR MOVING PRICES THIS SUMMER

One piece of good news for prospective movers: The cost of moving this summer will likely be lower compared to summers prior. "The COVID years proved to be some of our highest demand periods where people were making housing decisions and work location decisions that were completely out of the norm," says Steven McKenna, vice president and general manager of Allied Van Lines, one of the largest moving companies in the country. "This year, it's come back down to earth a bit."

Higher interest rates and a slower housing market are likely behind the decrease, says Ryan Carrigan, co-founder of moveBuddha, a website where you can compare and book movers. The company's data and data from major part-



A mover carries a chair into a moving van parked at a home for sale in El Dorado Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

ners, he says, already show a drop in demand for the first half of this year.

Still, prospective movers shouldn't expect too much of a break. Though prices are down year-over-year, you can still expect to pay a 10% to 20% summer premium, says McKenna.

### FINANCING OPTIONS FOR YOUR MOVE

It's best to pay for your move with savings, but if that's not an option, you could finance.

Rob Bertman, a certified financial planner based in St. Louis, advises picking the product with the lowest interest rate to reduce the cost of borrowing.

A credit card with an introductory 0% annual percentage rate may be an especially good option, says Bertman. These cards are interest-free if you pay off the debt during the promotional period, which can last up to 21 months. You'll likely need good or excellent credit to qualify. Moving loans unsecured personal loans offered by banks, credit unions and online lenders are available to borrowers across

the credit spectrum, but interest can be high, depending on the rate you qualify for.

Bertman urges borrowers to focus on a plan for repayment, regardless of the product they choose.

"That's actually the most important thing," Bertman says. "Above and beyond how someone goes about financing is, 'How am I going to pay this back and how long will it take me to pay it back?'"

### WAYS TO SAVE ON YOUR MOVE

There are ways to reduce moving costs, which can help you borrow less or even pay in cash. Though you can't control factors like distance, you can control hiring, packing and overall weight.

### GET MULTIPLE QUOTES:

Quotes from professional movers can vary by thousands of dollars, particularly if it's a long-distance move, Carrigan says, so get three to four quotes minimum. "Pricing is dynamic and comes down to factors like does the company have trucks built up in that area, or do they need a reverse route covered so the truck doesn't go empty," he says. "DIY"

**WHAT YOU CAN:** Moving yourself is cheap, but it's not an option for everyone. Consider a partial do-it-yourself approach, where you move lower-weight items, but use professional movers for heavy items like furniture.

□

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# Mammals may have hunted down dinosaurs for dinner, rare fossil suggests



mammal skeletons with details of their interaction.

Associated Press

**By MADDIE BURAKOFF**  
**AP Science Writer**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — An unusual find in China suggests some early mammals may have hunted dinosaur for dinner. The fossil shows a badgerlike creature chomping down on a small, beaked dinosaur, their skeletons intertwined. The find comes from a site known as "China's Pompeii," where mud and debris from long-ago volcanoes buried creatures in their tracks. "It does seem like this is a prehistoric hunt, captured in stone, like a freeze frame," University of Edinburgh paleontologist Steve Brusatte, who was not involved with the study, said in an email. The fossil, described Tuesday in the journal *Scientific Reports*, shows two creatures from around 125 million years ago, during the Cretaceous period. Even though the mammal is much smaller, researchers think it was attacking the dinosaur when they both got caught in the volcanic flow, said study author Jordan Mallon, a paleobiologist at the Canadian Museum of Nature. The mammal is perched on the dinosaur, its paws gripping

the reptile's jaw and a hind limb while its teeth plunge into the ribcage. "I've never seen a fossil like this before," Mallon said. That mammals ate dinosaur meat had been proposed before: another fossil showed a mammal died with dinosaur remains in its gut. But the new find also suggests that mammals may have actually preyed on dinosaurs several times their size, and didn't just scavenge ones that were already dead, Mallon said. "This turns the old story on

its head," Brusatte said. "We're used to thinking of the Age of Dinosaurs as a time when dinosaurs ruled the world, and the tiny mammals cowered in the shadows." The study authors acknowledged that there have been some fossil forgeries known from this part of the world, which Mallon said was a concern when they started their research. But after doing their own preparations of the skeletons and analyzing the rock samples, he said they

were confident that the fossil which was found by a farmer in 2012 was genuine, and would welcome other scientists to study the fossil as well. The mammal in the fossil duo is the meat-eating *Repenomamus robustus*, about the size of a house cat, Mallon said. The dinosaur — *Psittacosaurus lujiatunensis* — was about as big as a medium-sized dog with a parrotlike beak. This species was a plant eater, but other dinosaurs were meat eaters or ate both. In the end, dinosaurs were probably still eating mammals more often than the other way around, Mallon said. □

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## The resilience of basketball star Stephen Curry explored in Apple TV+ doc

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

"Stephen Curry: Underrated" is easily one of the most inspirational movies of the year.

This is a portrait of a man the greatest three-point shooter of all time who has felt inferior playing the game he loves since he was a scrawny kid playing on his local under-10 team. It's easy to roll your eyes at supermodels who say they were teased when they were kids or famous actors who look like the captain of the football team insisting they were outcasts in high school. In the rear-view mirror, when things have gone so well after that origin story, it just always rings a little false.

But in this documentary, directed by Peter Nicks and streaming on Apple TV+ Friday, the filmmakers put you in Curry's shoes. They show you video of him on that under-10 team, indeed looking scrawnier than his counterparts and with the posture of someone who's already self-conscious about it.

They have Reggie Miller



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Stephen Curry in a scene from the documentary "Stephen Curry: Underrated."

Associated Press

on hand to read the draft report which says Curry is "far below NBA standard in regard to explosiveness and athleticism," extremely short for a shooting guard position, and cautions "do not rely on him to run your team." Ouch.

And they close in on his face at some of the biggest moments of his career, both in college and in the NBA, to show a reaction that's neither smug nor

nonchalant or overly celebratory: It's authentic astonishment.

And as if to upend expectations even more, the present timeline of "Stephen Curry: Underrated" is not focused on a season or chasing a title though there is plenty of basketball, including the moment he breaks the three-point record. It's almost more about college deciding he wanted to play at school,

finding the right school for himself and, many years and championships later, studying to finish what he started, while juggling his career, his contracts and his family.

In 2009, Curry decided to leave Davidson College a year early, without graduating, to pursue professional basketball. But he made a promise his mother, Sonya, that he'd go back and finish at some point.

Curry and Davidson, like most healthy athlete-school agreements, seemed to choose one another at exactly the right time. When he got in, feeling good about himself, he went to tell his friends: They'd never even heard of the small liberal arts college in North Carolina.

That was a bit disappointing but what would have been even worse is if he'd accidentally sabotaged the whole thing by not responding to coach Bob McKillop, who started to worry whether his recruit was being pursued by other schools when Curry went dark.

From high school to college on into the pros, something that struck many about Curry is how he makes a lot of mistakes but never seems to wallow in them.

When he goes up against Michigan for the first time in college, he describes how everything that could go wrong went wrong. Later, his coach said he was going to start the next game. McKillop saw in his perseverance a toughness that was rare in players. □

## Craig Robinson continues underdog storyline on Peacock's 'Killing It'

By **JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**  
AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Craig Robinson and his kind-hearted, python-hunting character on "Killing It" are returning to television next month.

Season two, which Peacock said Tuesday will return on Aug. 17, will continue the quest by Robinson's character to climb out of poverty while avoiding sketchy characters like his brother.

"Capitalism is very real. Greed is very real. Shysters and scam artists are very real," the actor-comedian told The Associated Press in a recent interview before the actors strike.

In the first season, Robinson's character (also named Craig) is a father who loses his job and becomes homeless. Craig decides to invest in

a million-dollar scheme, but needs \$20,000. Entering a python-killing contest sponsored by the state of Florida is his way to get the money.

It starts as a lucrative opportunity for Craig and his tagalong friend Jillian

(Claudia O'Doherty), who is also struggling financially and pulling various jobs such as being an Uber driver. But then their snake hunting quest spins out of control after a fire and the disposal of a dead body that ends up in the belly of

a python.

In the eight-episode second season, Robinson said his character is on a journey to achieve the "American dream" while trying to avoid working in corporate America and vicious criminals. He said it's imperative for his character to keep his "sanity and safety."

"It takes a lot to toe that line, especially when you got these opportunities presented to you," said Robinson, who has starred in movies such as "Hot Tub Time Machine" as well as the American version of "The Office."

"You see yourself in situations where you have a choice," he continued. "You get to live through these characters. There's definitely something like an angel and devil on his shoulder with his colleague

in there along with his brother. It's twists and turns, and will definitely have you thinking 'What would I do in that situation?'"

Robinson's character will certainly have to make a decision about his scamming brother Isaiah, who is played by comedian Rell Battle.

"They've got this bond that is unbreakable. But at the same time, it needs to be broken because he's very toxic in his life," Robinson said. "It does speak to family as well, because we all have a person that we cover up. We take up for them. They borrow money but don't pay it back. But there's something about them that makes you laugh.

It's something about them that makes you not want to let go of that part of your life." □



In this photo provided by Peacock, actors Claudia O'Doherty, left, as Jillian, and Craig Robinson, center, as Craig, appear in a scene for season two of "Killing It."

Associated Press



# NFL owners unanimously approve the \$6.05B sale of the Commanders

By DAVE CAMPBELL and  
STEPHEN WHYNO  
AP Sports Writers

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP)

— NFL owners unanimously approved the sale of the Washington Commanders on Thursday from Dan Snyder to a group led by Josh Harris and including Magic Johnson for a record \$6.05 billion.

All 32 team owners voted for the sale, which is the highest price paid for a North American professional sports team. After the finance committee approved the agreement with the new ownership group, Harris Blitz Sports and Entertainment, a special league meeting was called to consider and vote on it before the 2023 season begins.

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones beamed as he walked off an escalator and headed toward the meeting room, granting a brief interview with reporters about the impending sale of his team's division rival.

"It's a hallmark day," Jones said. "I'm excited about



Magic Johnson arrives at the premiere of "They Call Me Magic" on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at Regency Village Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

the prospects of going into Washington and giving them some capital punishment."

Snyder had owned his favorite boyhood team since 1999, when he bought it for \$800 million. Success was fleeting, both on and off the field. With Snyder in charge, the team made the playoffs just six times in 24 years, only twice won

a postseason game and went 166-226-2 overall. The franchise has lost a significant amount of luster from the glory days under coach Joe Gibbs, who won three Super Bowls in his 12-year run from 1981-92.

Then there were the problems outside of football, from a feud with minority owners that led Snyder to buy out their shares of the

team to allegations of sexual harassment by former employees, which prompted a series of investigations into workplace misconduct. Over and over again, Snyder said he would never sell the team.

The tide began to shift on that front last October when Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay said there was "merit to remove" Snyder,

an ouster that would have required votes from at least 24 of the other 31 clubs. Two weeks later, Snyder and his wife Tanya hired a firm to begin exploring a sale of part or all of one of the NFL's oldest franchises — one that has called the nation's capital home since 1937.

Ultimately, that process led to a group chaired by Harris. His investment crew also includes David Blitz, with whom he co-owns the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers and the NHL's New Jersey Devils, Washington-area businessman Mitchell Rales and more than a dozen others. The unusually large ownership group needed and received league finance approval for a deal that shattered the \$4.35 billion Walmart heir Rob Walton paid last year for the Denver Broncos.

The special meeting for the Commanders sale was conducted at the same hotel adjacent to the Mall of America in suburban Minneapolis where Walton's group gained formal control of the Broncos. □

# Kasper Asgreen holds on to win 18th stage of Tour de France

BOURG-EN-BRESSE, France  
(AP) — Another Danish rider took the limelight at the Tour de France on Thursday

as Kasper Asgreen joined an early breakaway and then held on to win the 18th stage in a sprint finish. His countryman Jonas Vingegaard took it easy this time, sitting comfortably in the main pack as he protected his huge overall lead. The defending champion leads two-time Tour winner Tadej Pogačar of Slovenia by 7 minutes, 35 seconds and Britain's Adam Yates by 10:45 with Sunday's finale in Paris getting closer.

But this was Asgreen's day and he spread his arms after beating Dutchman Pascal Eenkhoorn and Norwegian Jonas Abrahamsen in their dash to the line.

"Obviously the situation of our breakaway was not

ideal. I would have preferred to break with seven or eight riders. It's also one of the final stages of the Tour after really hard weeks," Asgreen said. "I didn't rule out the possibility of winning. My breakaway companions were just excellent out there. We all deserved to win because of how much work we put into the break."

They were all given the same time of 4 hours, 6 minutes, 48 seconds after holding off a large group of sprinters behind them who left it too late. Star sprinter Jasper Philipsen missed out on another stage win and finished fourth.

After Vingegaard took full control of the race with some jaw-droppingly fast riding to crush Pogacar in the Alps, Thursday's stage offered respite to the main contenders on a flat 185-kilometer (114.6-mile) route from Moutiers to Bourg-en-Bresse.

Belgian rider Victor Campenaerts joined Asgreen and Abrahamsen to form an early breakaway.

They worked well together and after the first hour had opened up a lead of around one minute. The gap remained the same, give or take a few seconds either way, with under 100 kilometers (62 miles) left. But the peloton, after rolling along in the sunshine at a mercifully reduced pace compared to previous days, then eventually stepped it up, with Quentin Pacher and Fred Wright setting a higher tempo.

Eenkhoorn was the next to attack and he was the only one to join the trio to make it a four-man group. The peloton left it too late, and they just held on as As-

green raised his arms at the line. The huge effort took its toll as he dismounted and sat on the tarmac to get his breath back, before being congratulated by a Soudal Quick-Step teammate.

"It means so much with the period I had this year since I crashed at Tour de Suisse," Asgreen said. "I've come a long way, and to cap it off with a victory like this is amazing." □



Denmark's Kasper Asgreen celebrates as he crosses the finish line ahead of Netherlands' Pascal Eenkhoorn, right, and Norway's Jonas Abrahamsen, left, to win the eighteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 185 kilometers (115 miles) with start in Moutiers and finish in Bourg-en-Bresse, France, Thursday, July 20, 2023.

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## Fleetwood among British Open leaders; McIlroy among the survivors

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HOYLAK, England (AP) —

The British Open showed again Thursday that even after 163 years, golf's oldest championship can still deliver a few surprises.

It started with Christo Lamprecht, the South African amateur as tall as a flag stick and almost as thin, making three birdies over his last six holes and posting a 5-under 66 to become the first amateur in 12 years to share the 18-hole lead at the Open.

Curiosity about the 22-year-old amateur turned to glee at the site of local hero, Tommy Fleetwood, running off three straight birdies on the back nine at Royal Liverpool to join him atop the leaderboard. Emiliano Grillo of Argentina became the third to post 66 by holing a birdie putt from 50 feet on the last hole.

Not to be overlooked was Jordan Spieth hitting a shank; Rory McIlroy missing a 3-foot putt; Justin Thomas going bunker-to-bunker-to-rough each shot further away from the flag than the previous one in making a 9 on the 18th hole to post his highest round in a major at 82.

McIlroy, trying desperately to end his nine-year drought in the majors, was happy to get away with a 71. He risked the round getting away from him until making up for that wee miss on the eighth hole with a 40-foot birdie on the 14th that sparked him.

And then it almost got away from him in the end just like the bunkers on the 18th ruined so many other rounds when he left one in the pot bunker and expertly got out the second time and made a 10-foot par.

Scottie Scheffler, the world's No. 1 player, got



England's Tommy Fleetwood acknowledges the crowd after putting on the 13th green on the first day of the British Open Golf Championships at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, England, Thursday, July 20, 2023.

Associated Press

around in 70 in the morning before the breeze turned into a stiff wind.

Masters champion Jon Rahm reached a point where he felt nothing was going his way, and it wasn't. He hit what he thought was a good shot into the 18th only for it to find a bunker, forcing him to play back toward the fairway and turning a birdie chance into bogey. Rahm opened with a 74.

"It does ask a lot of questions, this golf course," an exasperated Shane Lowry said after a 72.

What it left behind after the longest day 15 hours of golf were few answers. Fleetwood raised hopes of becoming the first English winner of a British Open in England since Tony Jacklin in 1969. He kept his own hopes measured, fully aware of gallery support for the long-haired lad raised about an hour up the coast.

"First day, so this was a pretty good one," Fleetwood said.

"All I want to do is keep

working hard keep playing, and keep putting myself in position. And obviously, it'll be my turn soon."

The biggest surprise to everyone but the 6-foot-8 (2.03 meters) Lamprecht was seeing an amateur atop the leaderboard at the final major of the year. He qualified by winning the British Amateur at Hillside, a links course just north of Liverpool on the Lancashire coast.

"The first tee shot was the only bit of nerves I had all day," said Lamprecht, an All-American at Georgia Tech. "Yeah, I just kind of walked off the first tee box after hitting my snap-hook drive, and my caddie just told me, 'Listen, you're playing The Open as an amateur; no need to stress.' "We kind of had fun from there."

The last amateur to share the 18-hole lead at the Open was Tom Lewis at Royal St. George's in 2011. Irish amateur Paul Dunne shared the 54-hole lead at St. Andrews in 2015.

Lamprecht appreciates it's

unusual for an amateur to hold his own against the pros, at a major championship no less. But that's where it ends.

"I think I earned my spot to be here," he said. "I think the way I played today, I earned to be on the top of the leaderboard. It's not a cocky thing to say. I just personally think I believe in myself, and I guess stepping onto the first tee box ... you should be believing that you should be the best standing there."

Brian Harman, Adrian Otaegui of Spain and Antoine Rozner of France each birdied the 18th and were at 67. The group at 68 included U.S. Open champion Wyndham Clark, 50-year-old former British Open champion Stewart Cink and Max Homa.

Spieth was at 69, a strong start considering the shank he hit from tall grass and the golf ball above his feet on the eighth hole. The ball was declared lost and he made double bogey.

"I've never hit one before, so it took me a couple

holes to feel like I got my feet back under me," Spieth said. He did just that until finding a pot bunker off the tee and finished with a bogey.

The bunkers were frightening, with players unsure if the ball would settle in the middle or be up against the vetted, sodden walls. Either way, it was about as penal as a water hazard.

"That's why they're there," Rahm said. "You have to try to avoid them. Plenty of people did a good job and shot a low score today. It's very difficult to avoid them all."

The bunkers around the 18th were particularly diabolical. There were 19 scores of double bogey or worse on the closing hole on Thursday. The last time at Royal Liverpool in 2014, there were 26 doubles or worse the entire tournament.

Thirty-one players managed to break par, and players like McIlroy at even par hardly shot themselves out of the championship.

"I needed to stay patient out there. It wasn't the easiest of days," McIlroy said. "But I'm still right in there." McIlroy won the last time at Royal Liverpool, opening with rounds of 66-66 and going on to a wire-to-wire win at 17-under par. Tiger Woods won in Hoylake in 2006 at 18 under.

This is a different Royal Liverpool, slightly lengthened and with a new par-3 17th hole that wreaked havoc for some — Phil Mickelson made double bogey, Lucas Herbert a triple — but this day was all about the bunkers.

"It's the most well-bunkered golf course that we play," Lowry said. "They're everywhere, and they're very penal." □